

HUD National Disaster Resiliency Competition – Massachusetts Phase 2 Draft Application
Public Hearing for Comments

Date: October 21, 2015

Time: 9:30 AM. The hearing will last until all comments have been provided.

Place: Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street – 9th Floor

Boston MA 02114

Written comments may also be provided on or before October 24, 2015 to Kathleen.Baskin@state.ma.us

Background: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is one of 40 finalists in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Disaster Resilience Competition, and has been invited to participate in Phase 2 of the application process. HUD's competition promotes risk assessment, stakeholder engagement and planning, and will fund the implementation of innovative recovery and resilience projects to better prepare communities for future storms and other extreme events. The goal of the competition is to help communities recover from natural disasters and improve their ability to prepare and withstand future disasters. HUD is making \$1 billion available to communities that have been struck by Presidentially-declared major disasters that occurred in 2011-2013; the maximum grant award is \$500 million and the minimum is \$1 million.

Massachusetts is eligible to receive funding for recovery and resilience against impacts related to six federally-declared disasters, including tornadoes, snow storms, and Tropical Storm Irene. Land-bound hurricanes, snow storms, and tornadoes have all ravaged the state in recent years; they were particularly devastating to low- and moderate-income communities.

Application: As the Executive Office of energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) collaborate on an application, we are committed to developing projects that address the post-disaster threats remaining as a result of existing unmet recovery needs and that address the threat due to climate change. In Phase 2, the state will articulate specific actions for the Commonwealth to create a more resilient MA including; protection of infrastructure and people against riverine flooding; tree planting; and promotion of the forestry industry development of robust science; clean, dependable and affordable energy and heat; repairs to remaining damage from qualifying disasters; and development of robust science.

Target Areas for HUD spending are:

- Springfield
- Deerfield River Watershed (Rowe, Monroe, Hawley, Heath, Charlemont, Buckland, Shelburne, Colrain, Greenfield)
- Williamstown

Public Input: Your feedback and ideas are needed! Our **Draft Phase 2 Application** is available on line at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/waste-mgmt-recycling/air-quality/climate-change-adaptation/national-disaster-resilience-competition/>. Please provide your comments at this meeting or by October 24 to:

Kathleen Baskin
Director of Water Policy
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th floor
Boston, MA 02114
phone: 617-626-1012
email: kathleen.baskin@state.ma.us